(ग) केन्द्रीय सरकार ने राज्य व्यापार निगम तथा राष्ट्रीय डेयरी विकास बोर्ड का 20 प्रतिशत के रियायली आयात शुल्क पर खाद्य तेलों का आयात करने के लिए प्राधिकृत किया है । राज्य व्यापार निगम को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के लिए चालू वित्तीय वर्ष 1995-96 के दौरान 1.5 लाख मी0 टन आर बी डी पामोलीन का आयात करना है । चूंकि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में खाद्य तेलों के मूल्यों में निरन्तर परिवर्तन होता रहता है, अतः इस चरण पर राज्य व्यापार निगम द्वारा अनुबद्ध समूची मात्रा के आयात पर खर्च की जाने वाली विदेशी मुद्रा की सम्भावित राशि बताना सम्भव नहीं है ।

(घ) राज्य व्यापार निगम द्वारा खाद्य तेल का आयात अक्तूबर, 1995 तक पूरा कर लिए जाने की उम्मीद है । राज्य व्यापार निगम द्वारा आयातित खाद्य तेल राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के तहत 24,000 रु0 प्रति मी0 टन (थोक में) तथा 27,000 रु0 प्रति मी0 टन (15 कि0 ग्रा0 के टीनों में) के केन्द्रीय निर्गम मूल्य पर उचित दर की दुकानों/सरकारी बिक्री केन्द्रों के जरिए उपभोक्ताओं को सप्लाई करने हेतु आवंटित किया जाता है । सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के जरिए उपभोक्ताओं को जिन अंतिम खुदरा मूल्यों पर आयातित खाद्य तेल सप्लाई किया जाता है, वे राज्य सरकारों द्वारा किए जाते हैं ।

**Strengthening Public Distribution System**

1495. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to strengthen and improve the Public Distribution System in the country particularly in the rural areas of Punjab during the last three years and till date;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) All operational aspects of the implementation of the Publioc Distribution System (PDS) under the administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments and U.T. Administrations. Strengthening and streamling of the PDS is a continuous process, the implementation of the PDS and suggestions for improvement are discussed with States/ UTs in the meetings of the Advisory council on PDS in Which the Food and Civil Supplies Ministers of all States, including -Punjab, are members.

**Centrally Sponsored foodgrains scheme**

1496. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether under a Centrally sponsored scheme for providing foodgrains at concessional rate of Rs. 25 per quintal was fixed three years ago-for supply to States for tribal and rural areas;

(b) whether many States have requested for increasing of the margin keeping in view the increase in the rates of transportation charges; and

(c) if so, the decision taken 6y Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Under the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) States/UTs are issued foodgrains at specially subsidised Issue Prices (CIP) which are Rs. 50 per quintal lower than the CIPs for the Public Distribution System (PDS). States/UTs were advised to ensure that the end Retail Prices (ERP) of foodgrains in RPDS areas do not exceed the specially subsidised Central Issue Prices by more than 25 paise per kg-

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Central Government has not advised States/UTs to increase the total margin of 25 paise per kg. on foodgrains meant for distribution in RPDS areas.